



## **RAPIDES PARISH: Cypress Arrow K9 Academy Case Mother & daughter arrested for aggravated cruelty**

A video was widely circulated this month, which allegedly showed Cane Corso dogs being viciously beaten at *Cypress Arrow K9 Academy and Kennels*, a dog training and boarding facility in Lena, in Rapides parish. The shocking and heartbreaking video was shared widely on social media, to the horror of justifiably outraged animal lovers across the nation.

We were absolutely swamped by calls from concerned citizens demanding justice and offering help. We also received multiple tips from former *Cypress Arrow* employees and others, which we were able to pass along to law enforcement. As the news broke, HSLA had many communications with the sheriff's office, and we offered to assist with any costs associated with the case, ranging from animal transport fees to professional testimony, should that assistance be needed.

On August 18th, Tina Frey, 52, and her daughter, Victoria Brimer, 21, were arrested and charged with two counts of aggravated animal cruelty. Both turned themselves in at the Rapides Parish courthouse and were each released on a \$10,000 bond awaiting trial. As it turned out, most dogs at the facility were owned animals. When *Cypress Arrow* closed, the remaining dogs were picked up or turned over to veterinarians.

This case helps underscore the vital need for additional animal control services across Louisiana. When the news of the video first broke, the police considered seizing dozens of dogs immediately but were surprised to learn that no facilities were available to take immediate custody of animals seized in cruelty cases. While Rapides parish does have an animal shelter, their facility was at full capacity, and they would have been unable to potentially hold a large number of dogs until trial. Sadly, this is the situation facing law enforcement with virtually all cruelty cases involving large numbers of animals in our state. At the same time, small shelters and rescues statewide are struggling and overcrowded with animals in the post-Covid climate.

Thankfully, a large-scale seizure was not needed in this case. Had emergency housing arrangements been needed, however, we would have found a way to help the animals, just as we did when we constructed a temporary emergency shelter for 123 surrendered animals. Still, it's entirely unreasonable to think that the incredible expense of large animal seizures should routinely fall on local nonprofits and rescues. On behalf of homeless, abused and neglected animals of Louisiana, we will keep up our critically needed work to better fund animal shelters and services statewide, with your support!



*Shelters and rescues everywhere are at capacity and are reporting a significant decrease in donations and adoptions in recent months. Not surprisingly, reports of homeless animals and pet abandonments are sadly on the rise. We are heartbroken that so many animals are suffering on the streets. We'll keep doing all we can to help homeless pets, even the tiniest ones, like cute little hamster, Gabo, (left) who was recently saved from a New Orleans dumpster.*

Special thanks go out this month to **Gallagher Insurance** and the **I Love My Dogs So Much Foundation**.

The groups presented us with a generous donation of cat food this month. If your business, school or club is interested in sponsoring a pet food drive for us, we'd always be appreciative of your help.

Just reach out to us at [info@humanela.org](mailto:info@humanela.org).